

some considerable difficulty. However, when it became apparent that this crisis was spreading like a huge ink blot across world financial markets and in particular among the emerging markets, it became clear that the economic and national security costs of U.S. inaction were going to be much higher than the risks associated with action.

The collapse in Mexico would have adversely affected our ability to continue steering developing countries on a path to free markets and democratization. Mexico has been viewed as a litmus test for the success or failure in our model of development. It is the largest of the emerging markets, the only one to have joined the 15-member OECD. That this should happen to an OECD country would have been unthinkable just a few months ago.

Second, Mexico has been held up as a model for other developing countries with its privatization, democratization, deregulation, and free-trade orientation. The United States, the OECD, and the IMF have been very public in urging other countries to follow this model. So Mexico's problems become the problems for everyone else.

Finally, let me just speak about the legality of the action. There is no doubt in my mind that the President's actions were within his authority under the law governing the use of the economic stabilization fund.

Mr. Speaker, the President acted when he had to act. The leadership of this body was correct in supporting that action.

It is important, not only the legal correctness of the President's action, but its policy sensibility.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 76

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the name of the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] be withdrawn as a cosponsor of H.R. 76.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUNNINGHAM). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

SHOULD CONGRESS INTERVENE IN BASEBALL STRIKE?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, tonight I would like to visit with you a little about the baseball strike and the very

issue that is addressed or has been brought to us in the last week, should the U.S. Congress deal with the baseball strike? I think in order for us to assess an answer to that question, we need to look at what the historical standards have been in the U.S. Congress or in the White House before we intervene in a labor dispute between two private parties.

First of all, how about Presidential involvement? You should know that in the past, it is very rare for a President to intervene in a labor dispute. It has occurred, but the standard that seems to have been set in the past is that it was necessary for a precedent to occur, and the President was brought in when the strike or the labor dispute would have had a crippling impact on the entire Nation.

I will give you some examples. For example, in 1945, at a time of war, President Truman intervened and ordered the coal miners back to work. In 1946, he did so with the railroads. In 1952, again during a time of major conflict, he ordered the steel workers back to work. President Nixon in 1972 ordered the dock workers back to work, obviously a crippling impact because we were not able to bring imports into the country. President Carter, 1978, with coal, and in 1979 with rail. President Reagan in 1981 intervened with the air traffic controllers. But even that intervention was somewhat unique because it dealt with Federal employees. And President Clinton last August intervened in a labor dispute that involved rails.

But nowhere in our history can we find, especially in a sport or a pastime, that a President has intervened.

I do commend the President the other day for asking the two parties to come to the White House, although I think the President was overly optimistic on his chances of succeeding in bringing about a solution to this dispute. As a result of that, I think the President made a mistake when he offered to both of those parties congressional assistance.

Should Congress intervene? The answer is clearly no. Baseball, the lack of professional baseball, is not a national emergency. I would like to see baseball. I am a baseball fan; my son is a baseball fan. But it is not going to have a crippling impact on this country if we do not have professional baseball for a few weeks or even this summer. It is not going to cripple the Nation. It is not like our coal or our steel or our dock workers. We should not intervene in a private dispute.

As you can see, where does this lead? Where does it lead if Congress does intervene? We had a bill introduced, a bill in this Congress, this is a bill to establish a new Federal agency, the National Commission on Baseball. Federal employees, seven full-time Federal employees will determine such things as what the price of tickets should be, what the contract should be, individual

negotiations of contracts in the minor leagues and the major leagues, and where this baseball stadium should be built. The Federal Government will be negotiating TV rights for the baseball teams. The Federal Government will have the right under its Baseball Commission to subpoena people, as if it is a criminal action. You do not want the Federal Government intervening in the private marketplace. And baseball does not, by the very merits of its sport, does not demand that the U.S. Federal Government intervene in the strike.

I think that it is absolutely necessary, especially when you are talking about two very wealthy parties, nobody is going to go hungry between the owners and the players. Granted, there is a ripple effect for people that work for baseball, but does that upon itself mandate that they come in? It sure does not for Bridgestone Tire Co. down in Oklahoma or Caterpillar. The President has not asked Congress to intervene in those because they do not meet that standard of having a crippling impact.

In conclusion, I urge all of you not to allow Congress to intervene in the baseball strike. Let the titans of money resolve it amongst themselves. And for gosh sakes, do not create a new Federal agency called the Commission on Baseball with full-time employees, another building in Washington, DC, another bureaucracy, the right of subpoena, the right to determine private contracts. We do not need it. Baseball players, baseball owners, go out there and settle it yourselves. It is your fight, not the fight of the U.S. Congress.

We should not give you 1 minute of time by taking it away from the debate on crime, which is a national crisis, on the Federal deficit, which is a national crisis.

Go settle your fight amongst yourselves.

NOMINATIONS OF DR. HENRY FOSTER FOR SURGEON GENERAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is very important that we come here tonight to talk about the President's nominee for Surgeon General, Dr. Henry Foster. Now, a lot has been said about Dr. Foster, but I don't think people truly understand Dr. Foster. Dr. Foster has spent a lifetime making our country a better place.

First, let me say that I think Dr. Foster is a fine choice for Surgeon General. Apparently, many other individuals and organizations do too, including the American Medical Association, which has praised him as "a dedicated teacher, a dependable leader, and a concerned advocate for improving access to quality health care." I would like to include as part of the RECORD